

Mr. Frazier and Commission Members,

When the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) visits Hanford in July, we believe it is very important for the BRC to have a presentation / testimony from the largest and oldest citizens' watchdog organization for cleanup of Hanford, Heart of America Northwest. Our public interest perspective is quite different than many of the voices that the BRC has heard from the Northwest in regard to whether the license withdrawal for Yucca Mt. will have a significant impact on the cleanup of Hanford (we do not believe that it will have a dramatic impact, since we have advocated for years that USDOE will need vitrified canister storage capacity for several decades after the vitrification plant finally begins operation): and, unlike many of the voices you have already heard from, we supported the withdrawal of the license application for Yucca Mt..

The BRC should hear a public interest organization's perspective regarding the need for new disposal capacity for a wide range of USDOE wastes. The recent Draft Hanford Tank Closure and Waste Management EIS conclusively shows that the "risk budget" for disposal of wastes at Hanford (the "carrying capacity" so to speak, for both radioactive and chemical wastes which may be disposed without exceeding groundwater and health protection standards from expected releases) will be greatly exceeded under EVERY alternative proposed by USDOE - even without USDOE implementing its decisions to dispose of additional LLW, MW and GTCC wastes at Hanford. To most people in the Northwest, USDOE's existing Records of Decision to dispose of 3 million cubic feet of waste at Hanford, and the pending proposal to also dispose of GTCC and GTCC-like wastes at Hanford, pose far greater potential impacts and risks than long-term storage of vitrified High-Level Waste and existing Spent Fuel due to withdrawal of the license application for Yucca Mt..

We request time for our organization to present our views to the Commission when you visit Hanford. More information on the organization is available at our website: www.hoanw.org. A short bio is also attached (any presentation from our organization would likely be from myself and board member Floyd Hodges, Ph.D., retired PNNL and Ecology hydrogeologist).

I look forward to discussing this request with you.

Sincerely,

Gerry Pollet, J.D.,
Executive Director,
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"The Public's Voice for Hanford Clean-Up"
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